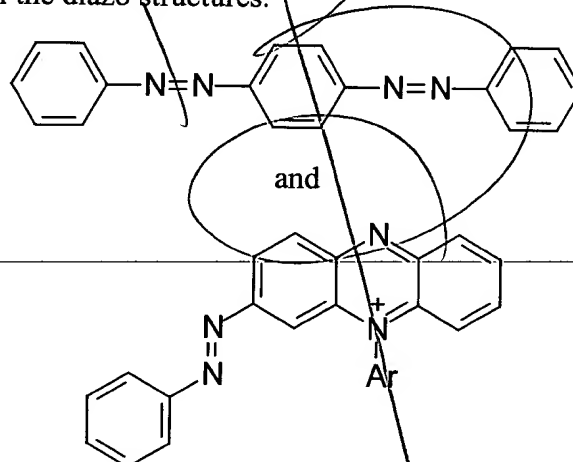


ethyleneoxy units; or L_1 is $-\text{NRC}(=\text{O})(\text{CH}_2)_n-$, $-\text{NRC}(=\text{O})(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{NH}-$, or $-\text{NR}(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{NH}(\text{CH}_2)_n$, L_2 is $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{O}-$, and L_3 is $-(\text{CH}_2)_n-$, where each n is an integer from 1 to 12;

X is an amino acid, a polypeptide, a nucleoside, a nucleotide, a polynucleotide, or a protected form thereof; or X is an acid-labile protecting group;

Z is selected from H , CO_2H , OH , NH_2 , NHR , NR_2 , SH , $\text{OP}(\text{NR}_1\text{R}_2)(\text{OR}_3)$, an ester, a cleavable linker, a solid support, a reactive linking group, and a label selected from a fluorescent dye, a hybridization-stabilizing moiety, a chemiluminescent dye, and an affinity ligand, where R_1 and R_2 are C_1 - C_{12} alkyl; C_5 - C_{14} aryl; or cycloalkyl containing up to 10 carbon atoms, or when R_1 and R_2 are taken together with the phosphoramidite nitrogen atom, R_1 and R_2 are C_4 - C_{11} alkyldiyl, and R_3 is a phosphite ester protecting group; and

Q is selected from the diazo structures:



wherein Ar is C_5 - C_{14} aryl; one of the aryl carbons of the diazo structures is the site of attachment to L_1 ; at least one aryl carbon of each diazo structure is substituted with an electron-withdrawing group and at least one aryl carbon of each diazo structure is substituted with an electron-donating group.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. By this Preliminary Amendment, non-elected claims 26-75 have been canceled, and claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1-25 are pending.